

# Ignite Round 5 “Spring 2016” Release Notes

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## Release history

Round 1 // aka “Beta” // Announced in March 2013

Round 2 // aka “Summer 2014” // Notes released March 2014

Round 3 // aka “Winter 2015” // Notes released October 2014

Round 4 // aka “Summer 2015” // Notes released March 2015

Round 5 // aka “Spring 2016” // Notes released TBD (target is Sept 1, 2015)

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**The following changes are being proposed for the HHS Ignite Accelerator program for the release of Round 5 occurring in the Spring of 2016.**

- In addition to having an open solicitation for ideas, seek solutions for defined problem areas and/or defined solutions.
- Updates to the **Online Application Form** to emphasize the problem area and de-emphasize others. Top submitters become Finalists.
  - Info on Project Lead | Name, Office, Email
  - Info on the Lead’s Supervisor = “The Project Sponsor” | Name, Title, Office, Email
  - Info on up to two add’l team members | Names, Offices, Emails, Roles/Skills
  - Describe the problem / system you’re looking to address | max 2,000 characters
  - Describe your proposed solution | max 500 characters
- Updates to the **Scoring Criteria** to match the new online proposal (above):
  - The project’s alignment to the Office, Agency mission [20 points]
  - The proposal’s understanding and explanation of the problem that needs to be solved. [60 points]
  - The potential impact of the proposed solution. [20 points]
- Limit the number of team members to three total, which includes the Project Lead. Other individuals can be mentioned as “contributing members”.
- **Create an enhanced “Finalist” stage.** Finalists are given an online training which is focused on the ‘Discovery’ phase [*Goal = 40 “Finalist” Teams*]:
  - How to identify your customers, interviewing your customers, defining a problem statement, and forming a hypothesis.

- The teams then have 1 month to conduct a certain number of interviews and refine their project goals. At the end of this stage, teams pitch to a panel for entry into the 3 month Ignite Accelerator.
  - Lengthening the time between Finalists being notified and their Pitch from 3 weeks to 6.
  - Require the Finalists to conduct 8-12 'end-user' interviews before they pitch.
  - Allow teams and projects to change between initial submission and Finalist pitch.
- Updating the format of the **Finalist Pitches** to to respect the “Discovery” that that selected teams will have conducted.
- Update the **Boot Camp curriculum** to respect the “Discovery” that that selected teams will have conducted.
- In the Summer 2015 Ignite Accelerator, we tested the concept of holding onto the funds and spending - up to a credit card limit - “their” funds as each team requested them. No teams ended up drawing on their funds. Thus, in Round 5 no team will be given access to funds. Rather, we’re using those dollars to purchase various tools for all the teams have access to.
- Building on the previous bullet, a curated suite of tools that align with the phases and philosophies of the Ignite curriculum will be made available for the teams. Those will be posted on [hhs.gov/idealab/tools](https://hhs.gov/idealab/tools).

## **Key Dates for Round 5 “Spring 2016” Ignite Accelerator**

Sept 1	Begin Communications
Oct 1	First day to submit an application
Nov 6	Last day to submit an application
Nov 16	Finalists Identified
Dec 1-3	Online “Idea Incubation” workshop for Finalists
Jan 25-28	Finalists make their Pitch
Feb 22	Selected Teams Notified
Mar 7-10	Training for Instructors / Mentors
Mar 21-23	Boot Camp
Jun 24	Demo Day

### **Other Notes:**

- The Ignite Summer 2015 Demo Day is Sept 17.
- In the Fall of 2015, we will conduct one or two OpDiv pilots: Ignite Accelerators that exist just within the walls of an Operational Division or one of the larger ICs within an OpDiv. Possible pilot locations include HRSA and NIAID.
- In the Fall of 2016, we will add additional OpDiv pilots. The ultimate pattern being proposed is that each year there is an HHS-level Ignite Accelerators (each Spring) and also OpDiv-level Ignite Accelerators (each Fall).
- Create and Launch a “Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)”-version of the HHS Ignite Accelerator. To be launched in the Summer of 2016.